Increase in strikes in banks

1439. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of strikes in various nationalised banks in different parts of the country.

(b) if so, the details of the mandays lost on account of strikes conducted by various banks during the last three years, till-date together with the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto and the details of action proposed to be taken against each employee of banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Indian Banks Association (IBA) has reported that during the financial year 2001 -2002, there were three all India strikes and one State level strike by the bank employees.

(b) Strikes in banking industry do cause inconvenience to the public and financial loss to trade and industry as well as loss of maofjays^sjhe business can not be transacted and the clearing houses do nonuTTfctiefl on the day of strike. However, it is not possible to quantify the mandays lost on account of strike conducted by various banks.

(c) Banks are instructed by the Government of India to take certain preemptive steps including appropriate action against the erring employees to ensure smooth functioning of the bank branches/offices on the day of strike.The banks deal with the absence of employees on account o strike, under the principle of 'no work no pay' and deduct wages accordingly. Besides, disciplinary and other actions as warranted under the circumstances are taken.

Issuing of search warrants

1440. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBDT has issued any directions in contravention of Act of Parliament (Income Tax Act) that Director of Income Tax need to take

administrative approval of Director General of Income Tax before issuing search warrent under section 132 of IT. Act;

(b) if yes, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether CBDT or any other IT. Authorities have issued similar directions of taking approval from the senior authorities for taking actions u/s 133A (Survey); and

(d) if Yes, the reasons tnerefor?

THE MINISTER OF STA^E IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GlrJGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) CBDT issued instruction on 7.3.2001 to take administrative approval of the Director General of Income Tox by the Director of Income Tax before issuing search warrants so that then? is a better supervision and monitoring of search action for curbing tax evasion without causing undue harassment to the tax payers.

(c) and (d) No such instructions have been issued by the CBDT. Surveys under section 133A of the Income Tax Department are generally conducted under supervision of the higher authorities.

Lower revenue collections

1441. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last five financial years 1996-97 to 2001-2002, collection of both direct taxes and indirect taxes was lower than what was mentioned by the Finance Minister in his budget estimates;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that even the revised estimates during this period (except 1999-2000) were not met; and

(c) what measures, like periodical monitoring, etc. are proposed to be adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.